

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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O 181715Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2812  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 2841

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGYLC CVIS, CSCE, RO  
SUBJECT: NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT REFUSED ENTRY

REF: A. BUCHAREST 2780, B. STATE 086271

1. AMBASSADOR MET THIS AFTERNOON (MEETING HAD BEEN POST-  
PONED FROM THIS MORNING) WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER  
FLIGA TO DISCUSS ROMANIA'S REFUSAL TO ALLOW NEW YORK  
TIMES CORRESPONDENT MALCOLM BROAPE TO ENTER ROMANIA  
APRIL 15 (REFTEL). BRIEFLY GLIGA MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. BROWNE'S ENTRANCE WAS DENIED NOT SIMPLY BECAUSE WHAT  
HE WRITES "DOES NOT PLEASE US" BUT FOR MOJDMVJBELANTIEA  
REASONS. HE THAN FOLLOWED WITH SEVERAL EXAMPLES OF  
BROWNE'S REPORTING ABOUT ROMANIA DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS  
PUTTING PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN  
APRIL 1976 ENTITLED "CULTURAL GENOCIDE IN TRANSYLVANIA,"  
WHICH HE SAID LACKED ANY OBJECTIVITY ABOUT THE HUNGARIAN  
SITUATION AND WAS IN FACT DISTORTED. BROWNE  
SUBSEQUENTLY VISITED TRANSYLVANIA ACCOMPANIED BY A  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FIRST SECRETARY WHO SHOWED  
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HIM THE "REALITIES" OF THE HUNGARIANS IN TRANSYLVANIA AND  
ARRANGED MANY OFFICIAL MEETINGS BUT BROWNE  
PUBLISHED EVEN A SECOND ARTICLE CONTRADICTING THESE  
REALITIES. IN ANOTHER ARTICLE AT THE BEGINNING OF 1977  
ABOUT THAUHIGH ACCIDENT RATE OF TAROM, GLIGA SAID THAT  
BROWNE WAS AGAIN INACCURATE. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS SUBSEQUENTLY ARRANGED FOR HIM TO MEET WITH THE

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF TAROM WHO PROVIDED ACCURATE STATISTICS ON THE SUBJECT BUT BROWNE NEVER PUBLISHED A RETRACTION OR CORRECTION OF FU FIRST ARTICLE. MOST RECENTLY, ACCORDING TO GLIGA, BROWNE CAME TO ROMANIA FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF CONTACTING PAUL GOMA. THE ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES ALLOWED HIM TO DO SO ALTHOUGH GLIGA HERE ADDED THAT FOR THE MFA GOMA IS A PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL "OF NO IMPORTANCE." THEIR COMPLAINT IS NOT THAT BROWNE CONTACT GOMA BUT RATHER THAT HE PUBLISHED "INEXACT INFORMATION" ABOUT HIM AND DID NOT REPORT WHAT HE LEARNED "IN GOOD FAITH." BROWNE'S DEFENSE OF WHAT HE WROTE IS THAT THE NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL STAFF EXERCISES JUDGMENT, BUT GLIGA REPLIED THAT HIS OWN PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AS A REPORTER SHOULD LEAD HIM TO BE OBJECTIVE.

B. IN LIGHT OF ALL THE ABOVE THE ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES, SINCE THEY GIVE FOREIGN JOURNALISTS COMPLETELY FREE REIN TO TRAVEL WHERE THEY WILL, CANNOT GUARANTEE BROWNE'S PERSONAL SAFETY. NOTE: AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT THE FACT, NOT UNNOTED BY GLIGA.) THIS WAS A MAJOR FACTOR IN DENYING HIS ENTRY.

C. BROWNE, SINCE HE IS NOT AN OBJECTIVE REPORTER AND WRITES IN A TENDENTIOUS AND CALUMINOUS MANNER ABOUT ROMANIA, DOES NOT SERVE "OUR COMMON INTEREST" BY COMING TO ROMANIA.

2. GLIGA STRESSED ROMANIA'S HOPE THAT BROWNE'S CASE WAS AN ISOLJFED ONE AND THAT OTHER US OR FOREIGN JOURNALISTS INCLUDING THOSE FROM NEW YORK TIMES WOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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BE WELCOME AS THEY ALWAYS HAVE BEEN.

3. GLIGA SAID IT IS THE ROMANIAN VIEW THAT THEIR ACTIONS IN THIS CASE CAN BE JUSTIFIED IN THE SPIRIT OF THE FINAL ACT OF HELSINKI, WHEREIN JOURNALISTS HAVE AN ETHICAL OBLIGATION TO BE OBJECTIVE AND PROFESSIONAL.

4. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HE ALREADY HAD SENT A CABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE INFORMATION WE HAD AS OF APRIL 16 AND THAT HE WANTED TO MAKE A NUMBER OF POINTS ON THE BASIS OF LMSTRUCTIONS HE HAD RECEIVED. HE WOULD OF COURSE INFORM WASHINGTON OF TODAY'S MEETING. AMBASSADOR THEN SET OUT POINTS IN REFTELS.

5. AFTER AMBASSADOR'S PRESENTATION, GLIGA SAID HE WANTED TO MAKE A FEW COMMENTS. IN HIS TEN YEARS OR SO OF ASSOCIATION WITH SUCH MATTERS HE DIDN'T REMEMBER ANY CASE OF AN AMERICAN JOURNALIST HAVING BEEN REFUSED ENTRY TO ROMANIA, EVEN THOUGH NOT ALL THE

JOURNALISTS DURING THAT TIME WROTE THINGS THAT THE ROMANIANS WOULD AGREE WITH. HE AGAIN REITERATED HOW REPORTERS (INCLUDING BROWNE) HAVE BEEN HELPED BY THE MFA TO "EXPLORE THE REALITIES." IN THOSE CASES WHERE TYKRE WAS A DIFV AGREEMENT IT STEMMED FROM ONE OF TWO CASES -

(1) WHERE THERE WAS DIFFERENCE OF OPINION, OR

(2) WHERE THERE WAS "EVIL INTENT." THE LATTER

IS THE CASE, KQFONWUNATEPI, WITH BROWNE. THE DECISION TO EXCLUDE BROWNE WAS NOT SPONTANEOUS, BUT THE RESULT OF CONSIDERING HIS APPROXIMATELY TWO-YEARS OUTPUT ON ROMANIA. ROMANIA HAS SUPPORTED BEFORE AND AFTER THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT THE PRINCIPLE OF RESPONSIBLE JOURNALISM TO PROVLTE UNDERSTANDING, NOT TO DEFAME. HE REEMPHASIZED, IN RESPONSE TO THE AMBASSADOR'S QUESTION, THAT THIS DECISION WAS NOT RELATED TO THE GOMA CASE OR TO THE ABILITY OF FOREIGN JOURNALISTS  
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TO SEE INDIVIDUAL ROMANIAN CITIZENS.

6. AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT BROWNE IS LEAVING BYDURADE TODAY FOR THE US BUT ASKED GLIGA TO CONFIRM THAT HE WOULD PASS ON OUR REQUEST THAT A FUTURE APPLICATION FOR A VISA BE CONSIDERED.

GLIGA SAID HE WOULD PASS THIS QUESTION ALONG FOR RECONSIDERATION. IN CONCLUSION AMBASSADOR CITED THE AMERICAN PROVERB "ALTHOUGH I DON'T AGREE WITH WHAT YOU SAY I WILL DEFEND TO THE DEATH YOUR RIGHT TO SAY IT" AS CHARACTERIZING THE AMERICAN VIEW OF THIS INCIDENT AND SAID IT WAS OBVIOUS GOR HAD A MUCH MORE LIMITED VIEW OF WHAT WAS ACCEPTAXWLEIJOURNALISM.

7. RECOMMENDATION: WE RECOMMEND THAT BROWNE REAPPLY WHEN PRACTICABLE FOR AN ENTRY VISA ONCE AGAIN TO SEE WHETHER THE CASE HAS IN FACT BEEN RECONSIDERED. WE SHOULD BE INFORMED WHEN HE APPLIES. WE NOTE THAT ANOTHER NEW YORK TIMES REPORTER PAUL HOFFMAN IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT ROMANIA SHORTLY AND PRESUME THAT HIS VISIT WILL BE UNHINDERED. WE ARE NOT VERY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT BROWNE'S BEING READMITDLMUUQCE HIS DELIBERATE EXCLUSION IS AN INDICATION OF THE LIMITS TO WHICH THE ROMANIAN LEADERSHIP IS PRESENTLY WILLING TO GO TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OF THE INTERNAL SITUATION.

8. FOR BELGRADE: REQUEST YOU BRIEF BROWNE PRIOR TO HIS APRIL 19 1100 TQZ DEPARTURE TO US. AMBASSADOR'S POINTS IN DISCUSSION WERE THOSE MADE IN REFTTEL A, PARA 11.  
BARNES

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## Message Attributes

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